

Rutland Herald

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## Heard It At School

Congrats!

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*By BRENDAN McKENNA Herald Staff*

U.S. Sen. Jim Jeffords, I-Vt., offered his congratulations to the winners of the 25th annual Congressional Art Competition.

Danielle Laberge of Burr and Burton Academy took the first place award for her work, "Self-Portrait." Majken Thomas of Vergennes Union High School won the People's Choice Award for her work, "Justice?" One-hundred and fifty-nine students from 32 schools throughout Vermont submitted entries in this year's competition.

The Congressional Art Competition is judged by a panel of artists at the T.W. Wood Gallery on the Vermont College campus of Union Institute and University. Sen. Jeffords, who viewed the students' work in Montpelier, founded the competition when he was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Every year I am more impressed with the creativity of these young Vermonters, and this year was no exception," Jeffords said. "After 25 years of working on this competition, today was bittersweet for me: it was a real pleasure to see such an impressive collection of artwork, but difficult knowing that this is the last year I will be judging the competition. I am confident, however, that this great tradition will live on for years to come."